

VZCZCXR00143
OO RUEHFK RUEHKSO RUEHNH
DE RUEHKO #0775 0960602
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 060602Z APR 09
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2075
INFO RUEHZJ/HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA PRIORITY 3372
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA PRIORITY 5717
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE PRIORITY 7168
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO PRIORITY 3912
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 3496
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 4510

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 000775

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR IO/RHS: AMY OSTERMEIER, GAYATRI PATEL; DRL/MLGA:
LYNN SICADE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/06/2019

TAGS: AORC PREL UNGA JA

SUBJECT: JAPAN SUPPORTS U.S. RETURN TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS
COUNCIL

REF: STATE 31175

Classified By: A/DCM Michael Meserve per (1.4b, d).

¶1. (C) Embassy Tokyo delivered the reftel demarche to Deputy Director Seitoku Kawakami of MOFA's Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Division. Kawakami welcomed the U.S. decision to return to the council and saw "no problem in Japan supporting the nomination" especially since New Zealand's withdrew its bid and left only three candidates (Norway, Belgium, and the United States) for three positions.

¶2. (C) Kawakami went on to state that there are three main problems facing the council that he hoped Japan and the U.S. could cooperate in solving. First is the issue of "making the council less divisive between countries supporting Western universalistic interpretations of human rights and non-Western developing countries with different approaches." Second is the need to "maintain support for country-specific resolutions, such as against Burma and the DPRK, despite the argument that the new Universal Periodic Review process eliminates the need." Third is the "need to make the Council more effective in preparation for the review in 2011 of its mandate and mechanisms," he said.

ZUMWALT